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COUNTRY Uruguay

SUBJECT Finances of the Communist Party of Uruguay (CPU)

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1. Several meetings of the Communist Party of Uruguay (CPU) have been held recently to discuss the finances of the CPU. A meeting on 8 April 1949 in the headquarters of the CPU's Section 12 was presided over by Senora de Richero, wife of the Communist Party Deputy, Antonio Richero, and attended by representatives from the cells of the business concerns Saint Hnos. S.A., Metalosa, Roberto Slowack, Sassi, Paname, and Campomar Y. Soulas.
2. Senora de Richero stated that a new plan to finance the CPU is being worked out. In the future, the CPU would be financed by the people. The need for funds for the National Congress of the CPU in June was emphasized. Even more important, however, was the necessity of establishing permanent financial machinery which would give each cell of the CPU a certain responsibility for the Party's finances, rather than leaving the working out of the Party's economic problems to a small nucleus of members on the finance committee. It was further pointed out that whereas previously all funds collected by cells and sections had been turned over to the Departmental Committee, in the future such funds would be distributed on a percentage basis between the cell, Section and Department.
3. On 12 April 1949, special representatives of Section 12 held a meeting in the headquarters of the Jacinto Vera cell to further consider the problem of the CPU's finances. The annual report of Eugenio Gomez, Secretary General of the CPU, was quoted as stating that the debts of the Party had reached 150,000 pesos (approximately US \$65,000). The Party was reported to be two months behind (10,000 pesos) in paying the salaries of the CPU's paid functionaries. There is a movement underway to organize Grupos de Amigos del Partido (Groups of Friends of the Party) through which funds might be raised to liquidate the Party's debt. It was pointed out that the debt must be met within 1949 in order that the Party might take part in the coming elections in Uruguay free of debt.
4. Another source reported that on 14 April 1949 at a Cell meeting, it was announced without explanation that all Party cells should cease collecting funds for the CPU immediately. A well-informed member of the CPU told source later that this announcement was the result of a disagreement between the National Committee and the Departmental Committee of the CPU as to who would accept responsibility for collection. Neither group wished to assume responsibility as each feared failure and the criticism which would follow.

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